create awareness amongst potential overseas workers on their rights and obligations will be initiated.

Inhuman treatment with Indian labourers migrated in Gulf countries

3552. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian labourers migrated to Gulf countries are being subjected to inhuman treatment;

(b) if so, whether it is because of absence of any comprehensive migration policy;

(c) whether Government are considering for any comprehensive policy so that labourers are not faced with inhuman treatment in future; and

(d) if so, by when and in what manner the migration policy is being enacted?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Complaints regarding ill treatment and exploitation of workers as well as cases/disputes regarding service benefits, legal dues etc. are received from time to time. Action is taken through the Indian Missions to redress such grievances of workers and for the amicable settlement of disputes. However, those who take up employment overseas illegally after going there on visit visas are susceptible to exploitation and have no protection of law in the host country.

(b) to (d) Migration of Indian workers for overseas employment is governed by The Emigration Act, 1983. In order to further protect the interests of Overseas Indian workers, the Government is considering suitable amendments to the Act.

Elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions

†3553. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether timely elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are being held in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.